



'As citizens,

*we all have an obligation to
intervene and become involved.
It's the citizen who **CHANGES** things.'*

— Jose Saramago

President Abraham Lincoln in his 'Gettysburg Address' referred to the U.S. government as being "of the people, by the people, for the people." That statement holds true for your local St. Charles Parish government.

Nine council members represent the people of the parish under the legislative branch, with the parish president handling day-to-day operations under the executive branch.

It's also true that the media don't cover all newsworthy-to-you events within government. It's up to you to become informed and engaged in the parish government process, and this brochure offers all the information you'll need to do just that.

From registering to vote to downloading parish council agendas, all the tools are literally at your fingertips!

OPEN THE BROCHURE FOR MORE



SCP GOVERNMENT OFFICES MAP

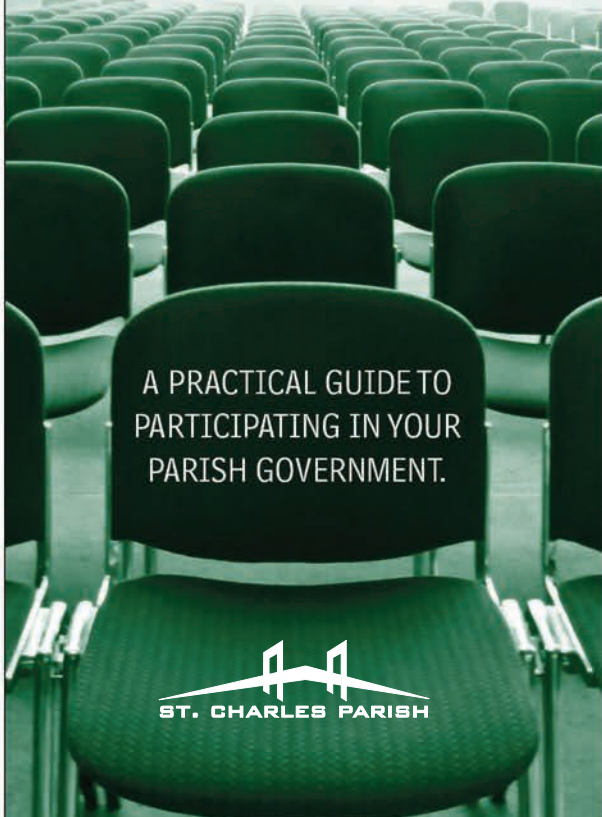
- 1 Allen Arterbury Building**
14564 River Rd., New Sarpy (Community Services Dept.)
- 2 West Regional Library**
105 Lakewood Drive, Luling
- 3 St. Charles Parish Waterworks Locations**
301 Third St., Luling • 14924 River Rd., New Sarpy
- 4 St. Charles Parish Courthouse**
15045 River Road, Hahnville
- 5 Parks and Recreation Department Building**
171 Keller Street, Hahnville
(Temporary home of Risk Management and RSVP)
- 6 Planning and Zoning Department**
14996 River Road, Hahnville
- 7 Economic Development and Tourism Department**
15012A River Road, Hahnville
- 7 Department of Motor Vehicles**
15012B River Road, Hahnville
- 8 Public Works and Wastewater Offices**
100 River Oaks Drive, Destrehan
- 9 St. Charles Parish Animal Shelter**
921 Rue La Cannes, Luling
- 10 New Emergency Operations Center**
15026 River Road, Hahnville
- 11 Edward A. Dufresne Community Center**
274 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling
- 12 East Regional Library**
160 W. Campus Drive, Destrehan

St. Charles Parish Public Information Office

(985) 783-5182 • (985) 783-5023 (fax)
stcharlesparish-la.gov/pio • publicinfo@stcharlesgov.net

*offer an opinion.
exercise your civic duty.
let your voice be heard.*

**get
INVOLVED!**



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO
PARTICIPATING IN YOUR
PARISH GOVERNMENT.



Produced by the St. Charles Parish Public Information Office.

VOTE.

QUALIFICATIONS Must be 17 years of age to register to vote, as well as a U.S. citizen. Must NOT be under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony, and must

NOT be under a judgment of full or limited interdiction in which your right to vote has been suspended. Must reside in the parish in which you seek to register and vote. The voting age is 18.

WHERE TO REGISTER Complete an application at the Registrar of Voters Office, located within the St. Charles Parish Courthouse, 15045 River Road in Hahnville, by mail or online at www.geauxvote.com. Designated sites may offer voter registration, such as the Office of Motor Vehicles, La. Department of Social Services and others.

NEEDED DOCUMENTS Those registering in person are required to prove age, residency and identity via a current La. drivers' license, birth certificate or other documentation which sufficiently establishes this information.

WHEN TO REGISTER Register 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote.

MORE INFORMATION Visit www.stcharlesparish-la.gov/registrar or call (985) 783-5120. The St. Charles Parish Registrar of Voters Office mailing address is P.O. Box 315, Hahnville, LA 70057.

TALK.

A list of all local elected officials and their contact information to send letters, e-mails and faxes is available on the SCP website at www.stcharlesparish-la.gov/council. Click on 'Elected Officials List.'

In addition, a Public Information Bulletin listing contact information for both elected officials and parish departments is sent annually to all mailboxes in the parish. Additional copies may be picked up at St. Charles Parish Library branches or the lobby of the courthouse in Hahnville.

ATTEND.

Attending public meetings is an effective way to stay informed about government happenings. Citizens can learn about scheduled meetings by:

- Checking the legal section of the Herald-Guide newspaper.
- Visiting the parish's web calendar at www.stcharlesparish-la.gov/calendar.
- Watching the calendar and slides on Cox Cable Channel 6.
- Checking the meeting announcement bulletin board on the first floor of the courthouse.

State law requires all public meetings be advertised at least 24 hours in advance. Many of the meetings are aired live on Cox Cable Channel 6. All Parish Council, Council Committees and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings are posted for viewing on the parish website. Council meeting agendas are available for viewing both online and at the West and East Regional Library branches. Other agendas can be obtained using contact information for the individual boards and commissions.



CONNECT.

It's easy to stay up-to-date with local news via social media and the parish's website. Find previews of council meetings, videos about upcoming and ongoing infrastructure projects, results of council meetings, press releases and more at the following sites:

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stcharlesparish-la.gov
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/stcharlesgov
TWITTER: www.twitter.com/stcharlesgov
YOUTUBE: www.youtube.com/stcharlesgov
LEGISLATION: stcharles.legistar.com
MEETING VIDEOS: www.vimeo.com/stcharlesgov

In addition, the St. Charles Parish Public Information Office and other parish departments provide regular updates to local media outlets, including newspapers, radio stations and television stations.

SPEAK OUT.

Citizens and groups can address the parish council on any topic by

filling out a petition to address the council, which can be found under 'Right to Direct Participation' at www.stcharlesparish-la.gov/council or picked up from the Parish Council Office in the St. Charles Parish Courthouse.

The written request must be received by the council secretary at least one week prior to the meeting, or earlier during the holiday season. (Please check with the council staff.) Speakers are granted five minutes, which can be extended to eight minutes upon approval of two-thirds of council members. While the Home Rule Charter guarantees citizens the right to address the council, there is no provision for initiating debates, discussions or Q&A sessions with council members or administrators.

GET RECORDS.

Anyone 18 or older has the right to

examine or obtain a copy of a public record (unless exempted) of any public body, including state and parish agencies or boards. Requests must be submitted in writing.

Generally anything having been used, in use or prepared for use in the conduct of public business is a public record. Public records include drafts of documents, statistics, maps, letters, memos, budgets, electronic data, payrolls and assessment rolls. Processing time and a nominal administrative or copying fee may apply. For a sample of a public records request letter, or for more information, visit www.stcharlesparish-la.gov/pio and click on 'Public Information FAQ's.'

